

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 13 and 26.

Please amend the claims as follows:

C1
Sub D1
C2
1. (Twice Amended) A substantially water-free thermoplastic article consisting essentially of from about 50 to about 99% by weight of an unmodified polyvinyl alcohol and from about ⁵⁰~~49~~ to about 1% by weight of a thermoplastic elastomer.

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17. (Twice Amended) A thermoplastic article consisting essentially of from about 50 to about 99% by weight of an unmodified polyvinyl alcohol and from about ⁵⁰~~49~~ to about 1% by weight of a thermoplastic elastomer, wherein the thermoplastic article has less than about 2.0 percent by weight of water.

28
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C3
30. (Twice Amended) A substantially water-free blend composition consisting essentially of from about 50 to about 99% by weight of an unmodified polyvinyl alcohol and from about ⁵⁰~~49~~ to about 1% by weight of a thermoplastic elastomer.